

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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A Time of Reforms - in Frist Hall, That Is

By Hunter Brunstetter - Staff Writer

As each MBA student ploved his way through his first days of school this year, fourth, fifth, and sixth periods were times to sit back at the circular tables in the cafeteria, watch the massive new plasma screen television, and sip on the Grapes of Math. Yes, several major changes were made in the MBA lunchroom over the summer; the three most noticeable were the round tables, a change for the better, the gigantic six-screen television, a step in the right direction, and, of course, the replacement of the fountain-drink machines with fruit flavored drinks that put the "K" right back into koolaid beverages.

Several weeks into the school year, the standard rectangular tables of yore past were suddenly replaced with new King Arthur-style round tables. These new tables, while they do make navigating the lunchroom slightly harder, allow for more people to sit together and converse without having to huddle across the lunchroom just to talk to friends at the other end of the table. These new tables also put an end to the practice of moving chairs to the end of the rectangular tables, which blocked all routes to the tray return window. The new tables create practically no problems and enhance the elegant dining experience in Frist Hall.

As the necessity of Larry King's face on the new plasma screens looks emphatically upon us and moves its mouth in a way that looks suspiciously like talking, we students have found ourselves wondering what he is actually saying. Now, I am not opposed to the new TV, but I find it really for there not to be any sound. It is easy to understand why

MBA would not want to spring for speakers loud enough to be heard over the general din produced by the average lunch crowd, but I know of no arguments against closed captioning. Since I have seen Rammstein's music video for "Du Hast" closed-captioned, I am sure it is possible to do so for the programs on ESPN, CBS, NBC, or any of the

removal of Coke machines from the cafeteria. Using the argument that carbonated drinks are unhealthy, the administration and Sage Food Services replaced the shining beacon of lunch-time hope that is commonly called fountain drinks with creatively titled drinks from Purity Dairy. While I can see (though not agree) with the logic in replacing the

demonstrates Jungle Juice has 144 Calories per 12 oz. serving, four more calories than a fountain drink. Moreover, as the carton tells the nutrition-conscious consumer, Jungle Juice is not a significant source of Dietary Fiber, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Calcium, or Iron. What Jungle Juice does have is Glyceral Ester of Wood Rosin. Could Wood Rosin be the

secret ingredient that turns average juice into Jungle Juice? In my quest for the meaning of Glyceral Ester of Wood Rosin, I consulted MBA Biology teacher and resident drink ingredient expert, Mr. Pruitt. According to him, Glyceral Ester of Wood Rosin is used to make food like ice cream smoother. Though he had no idea why a drink like Jungle Juice would need such an ingredient, Mr. Pruitt said, "If you drink that stuff, you deserve it." Even the graffiti on the side of the Jungle Juice carton seems to be against the drink. With a disturbingly happy face it says, "Reach for something good," however the graffiti is reaching for something in a glass, and, to my knowledge, Jungle Juice only comes in a carton. While I do not expect the administration or Sage to reverse its decision to remove soft drinks from the cafeteria, I respectfully suggest that drinks such as "Orange Flavored Drink", "Atomic Orange" (What is the difference between these two anyway?), and "Jungle Juice" be replaced with drinks that are more nutritious such as real fruit juices.

With the addition of more nutritious drinks and closed captioning on the plasma screen, the changes in Frist Hall would have a more positive impact on the student body.



Students eating lunch with Larry King

other channels with capital letters for names. Thus, the student body could truly understand what is being discussed, in my opinion, the plasma screens are a good idea that just needs fine tuning to become great.

While several petitions circulate and students complain almost daily, it is clear the change that hits home the most is the

"unhealthy" colas with something like real fruit juices, the actual replacements for our beloved fizzy beverages are not any healthier than the carbonated drinks they replace. For example, Jungle Juice has 120 Calories in a 10 oz. serving, while the average fountain drink has 140 Calories in a 12 oz. serving. A simple mathematical calculation

Q Without a U - An Interview With Qadir

By Max Douglas - Staff Writer

MBA continues to broaden its horizons and is hosting a foreign exchange student from Azerbaijan this year. His name is Qadir Huseynov and he is living with me for the first semester. I have gotten to know him fairly well. With so many MBA students unaware of the rest of the world, I decided to hold an interview with him to reveal Qadir's true character and to dispel our ignorance of foreign affairs.

() what I said in response

[] what I was thinking or something that was happening

Q: What is your favorite kind of food or favorite place to eat and why?

R: You mean in Nashville? (Whatever) ah... I don't think you will know what I am talking about for my country. So in Nashville, I don't like any food. I like only chicken a little bit and that's very spicy. I hate it.

Q: What is your favorite movie and why

do you like it?

R: Ah, my favorite movie? I have a lot of favorite movies, but for American movies is Braveheart and I like it because it's patriotic and I think I'm patriotic, more or less. And actor, what is his name (Mel Gibson) yes, Mel Gibson yes, great, I like it a lot.

Q: What is your favorite sport in America and why?

R: My favorite sport, ah, I think I like

American football because its rules are not so difficult like baseball and it is kind of... I dunno... it is kind of... aggressive and I like it.

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Bush Addresses U.N.; Seeks To Take Over The World

By Christopher Schiller - Staff writer

The irony of President Bush's speech to the United Nations on Sept. 12 should not be lost on the keen observer; that is to say, that it was nice of him to at least explain the details of his plans for Iraq to an institution whose authority he plainly intends to completely disregard.

From the outset, Bush has intended to make Iraq an excuse to circumvent international law and take potentially cataclysmic unilateral action as a means to a commercial end, his crusade to eliminate terrorism is a pathetically transparent quest for control of the world's major oil supplies. As it was convenient for Republican presidents to spend the latter half of the twentieth century installing U.S.-friendly governments throughout the rest of America, so will this one spend at least the initial years of the twenty-first repeating the process in the Middle East. But it isn't enough that Israel is already Bush's Vichy France; Afghanistan, and now Iraq must be vicariously in order to leave the rest of the Arab League wondering which of them will be the 53rd state.

So it is perfectly understandable that the secretary-general of the Arab League decided to mention that an American

offensive a la 1939's Invasion of Poland would "open the gates of hell" in that region of the world, as it did in prewar central Europe.



President Bush Addressing UN General Assembly

It remains to the rest of the world's utter bewilderment that America to this day so aggressively pursues these undesirable policies which led to the destruction of its World Trade Center in the first place; perhaps Tony Blair is the only foreigner who fails so completely to see what Germany, Russia, Asia, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are desperately aware of: undoubtedly, history

repeats itself. The obnoxious chancellor that is America [sic] is headed straight for a land mine of epic proportions, if without consideration of its international obligations, it recklessly embarks on World War III.

I daresay that although German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's justice minister lost her job for comparing Bush's tactics to those of a certain notorious former Filmmaker, she wasn't so far off the mark. Whatever hates are perched in the esteemed halls of Washington, D.C., they are as blind to the apocalyptic reality lurking around the corner as the Nazis in search of German hegemony were seventy years ago.

The fact of the matter remains that Mr. Bush and all his hawkish cohorts are bound by treaty, by obligation, and by U.N. Charter to resolve this one way: through the U.N. Security Council. To do anything else would be to fail to recognize that—shock of shocks—America (sic, once again) is not the only country on Earth, and that our audacious military escapades can and do affect every person on this planet... particularly when they wield the potential to kill every last one of them.

9/11: One Year Later

By David Syverud - Staff writer

In the early morning hours of September 11, 2001, as many U.S. citizens were making their way to work, terrorists hijacked four planes and proceeded to commence the largest attack on U.S. territory since Pearl Harbor.

A year has passed since then, and much has changed. America's new-found fear of flying is expected to cost airline companies six billion dollars this year, but that is only the beginning. Other notable changes include:

Afghanistan's Taliban government has been overthrown, and a new head of government elected.

A level of patriotism that has not existed since the second World War is now being seen all across the U.S. For the first time in a long time, America truly stands united.

An economic recession already in progress has been made more severe by the September 11 attacks.

Airport security is tighter than ever. Only recently were the National Guard removed from airports across the country.

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Qadir (Cont'd.)

- Q. What is the silliest thing you have done yet in Nashville?
- R. Nashville? ... hah... I can't tell you.
- Q. What do you want to do when you grow up, like occupation?
- R. I want to be, I mean I like a lot of professions like politician, economist, computer manager, umm... Lawyer and so on. What I want to do, like what I would REALLY like to do would be to work somewhere like a beach, like a top or entertainment place like where a lot of girls work... I think.
- Q. If MBA was on fire and you had a water hose and you could only save one building, which one would it be?
- R. Ah... Library. (Why?) Why? Because there are a lot of books there I mean, library, and most important thing there, because maybe in other buildings there are people, but people will die, and so, it doesn't matter [I was thinking the same thing], but if books die, it will be difficult to find again.
- Q. What is your favorite kind of music and why do you like it so much?
- R. Ah... I like all kind of music, in eclectic, eclectic person... I don't know the word. (Eclectic) eclectic word. I like, I mean I hate music you listen to... [awkward silence] I mean you! (You) because it's

kind of... it's kind of... it's not a kind of music it's kind of someone just speaking, so... [I don't listen to rap so I don't know what he means by that]

Q. If you were one pop star, which one would you be and why?

R. Umm, pop star?... I think Michael Jackson because he is the most popular and famous person and singer in the world. And he's got... he can get anything he wants... But the only problem would be... nations... [can't make it out but he says some more stuff, maybe it's in Russian]

Q. Which two girls did you vote for to win the Homecoming Court Queen thing?

R. I didn't vote for any... because I didn't know who they were.

Q. What is your favorite form of transportation and why?

R. Transportation? (you) Trains I like because... just the way it sounds: chi, choo, choo, choo, choo. That's all.

Q. Since you have been in America, how have your thoughts changed towards American people?

R. [Had to edit this one, he liked the topic] Before I came to America, in my country, the thoughts of America were different. We thought that hamburgers, eating,

food, would be different. It is different but it isn't so incredible, I even don't like it. What about other things. Like we thought American people were kind of... they don't care about anything, they can do anything they want. Their children can do anything after 10 years old... About education and studying and so on, we thought that Americans were kind of... weak. They don't study anything. They just leave everything for college and after college maybe they will get smart, maybe not. But it's not like that. After studying here I know that we have a lot of homework, we study a lot. But I think that's not in all of the schools. Maybe public schools are kind of not so serious maybe as in private schools or in boarding schools. I'm not sure...

Q. Why did you want to come to America?

R. Just for fun, to see some places, to make fun of other people, to joke with them... to run with them... to see what kind of people live in the most powerful state in the world.

Q. Describe your plane trip, and what you did, and what you talked about.

R. That was too long, probably 12 hours.

But like 5 hours to London and 7 hours to Boston. Ah... that was too boring because you watch TV, you eat, you read and then you sleep then nothing to do. And the problem was I was sitting by myself so no one to talk to so I tried to make fun for myself and I joked with other people. I took pepper and blew it on somebody's face while he was sleeping. And he wakes up and looks at me and says, 'what are you doing?' and I said I don't know, then and he... who... and this custom officer wouldn't let me go through because I had too much luggage. (What did you have in your luggage that made it so much?) Umm... actually it was not so much, there were a lot of people who had more than me, but the problem was that I had a little and a lot. Like my suitcases were little so they count... like and when they cause problems for me, and when they cause problems for me, too much, it takes an hour for me to explain what is in because I didn't want to open it [I was losing interest so I was about to ask another question]. (And he just kept talking about the flight, so I just closed away.)

Vote for O'Connell - An Interview

The Bell Ringer's Ted Tywag interviews MBA Alumnus Freddie O'Connell, who is currently involved in his first political contest, running for a seat in the State Legislature.

What got you interested in politics?

It's funny, because when I turned eighteen I did not even register to vote because I was so cynical about the political process. Then I took a great political science class in my last year at Brown, which really made me see that what the government does affects millions of people.

Why should people vote for you?

The evidence of the work I've put into this campaign is one big reason. Two, I think I'm an opportunity to have a new voice in politics. Finally, running as an independent has really allowed me to bridge the partisan divide.

What do you hope to get accomplished if elected?

I really want to fix the "Number one in roads, number 50 in education" situation. I would also like to work on improving TennCare, and also work on tax reform.

What are some of your favorite MBA memories?

Being a microbe, we used to go down to the creek and throw rocks and try to push each other into the creek. I remember one time a friend of mine got pulled in and he had to go back to study hall and explain what happened. It's hard to believe that it was over ten years ago when I started at MBA.

Favorite MBA teachers, along with your Miss, of course?

It's a pretty long list. Mr. Lanier really connected with me. Mr. Elliot was great, and the whole math department was phenomenal. Even though I really had some antagonistic moments with him, I really got a lot out of Mr. Mosley's English class, even though I probably wouldn't have thought so at the time. Mr. Wornuck's Art History class was also a highlight.



O'Connell in the days of yore

Best thing about your MBA experience?

I'd say, just the friends I made. You really form bonds here that really are never going to be broken. Also, just the wealth of opportunities that are here.

What would you change about your MBA

experience?

It seems like with MBA providing the best of everything, I would have loved to have had a better lunchroom experience. It just wasn't great. I ended up bringing my lunch most of the time because the food was so bad.

Where do you see yourself in twenty years?

I think a lot of that depends on the outcome of November 5. I'd love to keep contributing to the political process. The other side of me wants to pursue some of my more creative interests: painting, poetry, web design. But one thing for sure is I'll always be an active citizen and I'm always going to be charting a path related to my interests.

Why did you shave your trademark beard?

I think appearances do matter, especially in politics, and I think the beard was an easy tradeoff to make for as important a job as I think this is.

Thoughts on the Technological Invasions at MBA

Alex Shofner just wants to watch a little television

As every single student, faculty member, janitor, visitor to MBA, and all the surrounding countryside must have noticed, this year we have acquired a flurry of highly technical machines (not that we haven't in every year previously.) So far (leaving room for assured expansion) we have three plasma, flat-screen, wide-screen televisions, all in four figures, and a monstrosity of a television sitting in the cafeteria, probably costing MBA several students' tuition.

I had incredibly high hopes for these televisions, my imagination running wild with possibilities. I was stunned and incredibly disappointed as I saw, for several weeks, all day, these four-figure televisions broadcasting, in black and white, the Announcements (which, by the way, are also printed and posted directly below the screens, not to mention in every student's e-mailbox and other various places around campus. Carlson...) I was sure that this must just be a test run, making sure that their system works and that there weren't any problems, but as the weeks drew on, the pattern did not change. Why can't the plasma screens' channel be set on something a little more exciting than the announcements, namely ESPN, Comedy Central, or even the dreaded CNN? And could we also, dare I say, have a little sound to go along with the pictures? Considering the placement of the screens, sound would not disturb any classes, nor would a group of students clustering around the screens.

And on Fridays, or even just alternate Fridays, what would be wrong with having a movie or taped tv show going on all the screens cycling all day? I challenge the Administration to provide valid reason refuting these arguments, and if none can be found, I challenge them to make these thoughts a reality.

No complications arise for Teddy Christenberry and Parker Prevost

There has been much discussion in the MBA community about the new addition of the "Jambotron" in Frist Hall. Many members of the student body have been wondering where it came from and what it is for. In a brief interview with Mr. Gioia, The Bell Ringer was able to find the answers to a few questions.

The Jambotron was donated by a generous man who wished to remain anonymous because he does not want to be credited for the contribution he made. Through his contribution, he and MBA hope to broaden the students' knowledge and world outlook. Mr. Gioia was initially inspired by this idea when he visited Princeton University and saw a similar system. The donor was given the idea by Mr. Gioia and graciously gave the donation. The Jambotron was placed in Frist because Mr. Gioia and his colleagues thought that it would be the best place for it since all the students are there at one point during the day. They want it to give the student body a

holistic outlook on world issues, and since the September 11 tragedy, it would be convenient for the whole student body to have access to the news if such a tragedy were to occur again. Still, some students are split on their opinions.

Many students like the Jambotron for multiple reasons. The Jambotron displays news and announcements during lunch periods and other times of the day. This attribute allows students not only to see the announcements for the MBA community, but also to see the announcements on an international level. By broadening world perspective in many ways, students and faculty feel more in touch with the world outside of their community. Others like it because they feel that it ignites conversation at the table. For example, some students were watching the news and saw the story on US forces preparing for combat in Iraq. This story sparked a debate at their table about whether it is the right decision to send forces into Iraq or not. Many students, therefore, are enjoying the Jambotron, while others feel differently.

There is also a group of students who do not like the Jambotron for a number of reasons. Students sometimes feel like the Jambotron draws their focus away from lunch table conversation. Lunch is the favorite period of the day for most students because they have a chance to sit down and talk to each other, but the Jambotron steals that time away from them. Another reason why it is not liked is that it takes up so much space and the tables are more crowded. Others have different opinions. When Mr. Caudill was asked about this topic, with his shirt drenched with sweat in Wallace 13, he

replied to us: "Boys, I would gladly trade the Jambotron for an air-conditioning system in Wallace. I would trade it in a heartbeat. But I agree with the purpose it serves." All the students laughingly agreed.

We have mixed feelings on this issue. We agree that the Jambotron does distract us from conversation but also feel that it serves a terrific purpose for keeping us in touch with the outside world. If the Jambotron were placed somewhere else that was open during 4th, 5th, and 6th period, it would be more convenient and enjoyable during lunch. Then students could go watch the Jambotron after they've eaten, if they so desire. If this is impractical, then perhaps we should be allowed to eat outside. This idea is a little far-fetched however. We look forward to seeing how the Jambotron is viewed in the months to come.

Cinema Forecasts from Schuller

Recommended: Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers because Tolkien rocks and so did the first segment of this thank-god-they-pot-some-effort-into-it adaptation.

50-50 Chance: Die Another Day... something seems different about this latest Bond installment (Thankya Jesus) Although it is another Bond installment...

Not: Star Trek: MCMXCVI (or whatever they're up to now) because I wouldn't want to see Captain Picard in a sex scene, either.

Point/Counterpoint

Gun Control

By Matthew Branton - Staff writer

In politics today, one topic refuses to go away, and with reason: it's been important to at least one-half of the American people for the past 229 years. It is, of course, gun control (or the lack thereof). Especially due to recent terrorist events, the number of guns owned in America is rising yearly. This is a trend supported in general by conservatives, who hold that gun ownership is not the privilege that it is - they say that it's a right. Liberals, overall, support gun control, but rarely are able to make any progress toward what must be an eventual solution to the plague of gun violence. Powerful political interest groups such as the NRA, a huge conglomerate of gun owners, contribute heavily toward the election of pro-gun candidates. These organizations spend large amounts of money each year on propaganda aimed at preventing gun-control legislation like the Brady Bill, which they delayed for seven years, and the ban on assault weapons, often spreading false information in the process.

Some would have it believed that guns are not a factor in the high crime rate in America. Wrong! Guns are the weapons in 70% of all killings in America and are used in over 1.1 million crimes a year. In fact, more than 35,000 Americans are killed by guns every year, a number that is far, far higher than in any other industrialized nation. For example, Great Britain has approximately 25 gun fatalities in a year, a number that does not include violence-prone Ireland. While the U.K. is much smaller than the U.S., the proportional numbers are revealing.

If you ask any gun activist just exactly why he believes that every American should have an assault rifle in the closet, the answers will range from reasonable to risible; most will fall toward the latter category. One commonly stated use for guns is for personal protection, whether in the home or on the street. There are a few flaws with this theory: first, in the event of a home invasion, it would be doubtful that the resident could reach his gun in time to deter, and if he could, it's probably not in a safe place, with his children most at risk than an intruder; second, unless you live in a high-crime neighborhood, you probably won't be attacked in the street. Although such things can happen, it's unlikely in the extreme.

Another popular refrain is "to protect against foreign invasion," a ridiculous idea for several reasons. There is no country in the world right now with the resources to invade the United States. If we were invaded, our well-equipped army would deal with the threat; if it couldn't, no rabble, armed with machine guns, much less hunting

rifles or semi-automatic handguns, would be able to do anything against an army of that strength. A fact noted after September 11: gun sales are on the rise again, for reasons some would describe as patriotic and others as a symptom of mass hysteria. This rush to arm makes little sense, for terrorist attacks usually are committed with bombs, and once the bomb has exploded, prompting the excitable gun owner to reach for his gun, he may not even find his house, much less his gun. Further, no hijacking could be prevented by armed passengers, because passengers are not allowed to carry their guns on board. Thank goodness!

So, what is to be done about guns and crime in America? There is an answer, one which has been stated again and again: citizens' privileges to own guns should be severely curtailed. The ban on assault weapons should be extended to include any weapons capable of mass slaughter, including all military-issue rifles and semi-automatic handguns, i.e. guns which are made for one purpose: to kill people. The ownership of guns should be regulated much more vigorously. All gun owners should have a license certifying them to own and use a weapon. Further, the total number of firearms any one person or group (e.g. militias) is allowed to own should be curtailed. Also, the background checks done on potential gun owners should be made more extensive, and anyone convicted of a felony should have his weapons confiscated permanently. People convicted of selling guns illegally (a felony) should receive lengthy prison sentences and never be trusted with any sort of firearm again. Lastly, the governmental agencies responsible for enforcement of these laws should step up their efforts to confiscate assault weapons.

Yes, the Second Amendment does state that the people have a right to bear arms, but only as part of a "well regulated militia," which would seem to mean the state National Guard, not a group of eager gun owners. And if a new interpretation of the Bill of Rights doesn't pan out, I think a new amendment would be in order.

Some people say that "guns don't kill people, people kill people." Well, if guns don't kill people, what does? With what are people killing other people? Their bare hands??

(Statistics for this article were gleaned from *Encarta*, 2002.)

(Neither the views of this article nor the reasoning of the author are necessarily those of the staff of the Bell Ringer.)

Anti-Gun Control

By Matt Smith - Staff writer

Guns have always been and continue to be a part of American life. This country won its independence thanks to its private gun owners, and approximately 45% of American households today have firearms. Trying to repress free speech and the first amendment is considered a horrible injustice, but many liberals believe that trying to repress the second amendment is an honorable pursuit. Some argue that the second amendment only protects the right to bear arms of a "well regulated militia." Among others, the Supreme Court has ruled in at least five cases, from 1876 to 1990, that the right to bear arms is an individual right. Liberal propaganda also includes arguments that range from assault and semi-automatic weapons bans to modeling our laws after those of some European countries; however, when these arguments are scrutinized, they don't pan out.

The assertion that assault weapons and so-called Saturday night specials are the favored weapons for crime are simple myths. Criminals have time and time again agreed that average criminals do not use assault rifles or Saturday night specials. Even studies for Congress by the Urban Institute show that assault weapons have never been widely used in crime. Many liberals also want the ban of handguns, yet the facts show this ban to be a terrible mistake. In 1976, Washington, D.C. banned handguns, and over fifteen years, until 1991, their homicide rate rose 300%, while the US homicide rate rose only 12%. Firearms, with handguns constituting a large part, are a huge deterrent factor in crime, and the American people believe in this right. The National Survey of Registered Voters in 1999 found that 85% of people believe in their right to defend their homes with firearms. The Department of Justice found that 40% of felons chose not to commit certain crimes because of fear of firearms. Similarly, states that have "right to carry" (RTC) laws have much lower average crime rates than other states: 22% lower total violent crime, 28% lower murder rate, 38% lower robbery rate, and 17% lower aggravated assault rate.

Many advocates of gun control point out accidental deaths due to guns as well. While there can be no argument that these deaths are horrible and avoidable, the simple fact is many more people die each year from drowning, choking, fire, poisoning, and medical mistakes, to name a few, and guns constitute 0.9% of all accidental deaths. The answer to this particular problem is not a ban of guns, but more education about guns. Liberals love to point to England and say that the English have it the right way with their intense gun control laws. England, however, has doubled its murders with guns a year since she enacted tough gun laws. England currently has higher rates of robbery, assault, and burglary than the United States. On the other hand, many citizens of Switzerland are members of the national defense force, and the government issues these citizens fully automatic assault rifles and ammunition to be kept in their homes; consequently, crimes with guns are almost unheard of. In contrast, Italy, which has some of the most restrictive gun laws in Europe, has in its southern provinces alone thirty times Switzerland's total murders with guns. The difference is that Switzerland's people are trained and educated about guns and, therefore, serve as a huge deterrent to criminals and effectively solve gun accidents.

Without a doubt, something must be done about violent crime with guns. The answer, however, is not banning or restricting guns. A handful of states have already started implementing laws that severely increase the penalty of any crime that was perpetrated with a firearm, and this method is showing itself to be quite effective, dropping crime rates very quickly. Trying to regulate guns harshly will not only be ineffective but oppressive as well. Methods such as harsher penalties need to be employed instead of ridiculous and unenforceable pipe dreams of some radical liberals.

If a minority of liberals start to do away with the Bill of Rights, this country will have already started down a slippery slope that is

Point/Counterpoint

Pro/Anti-Creationism
(Biblical God Versus K-Pan)

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The Bell Ringer welcomes submissions and suggestions for future editions. Send articles or ideas to bellringer@montgomerybell.com or give them to a member of the The Bell Ringer Staff.

Point/Counterpoint

Creationism

By Andrew Keyser - Staff writer

Recently a heated debate has been going on in the notorious "Student Information" section in First Class over the age-old topic of the beginnings of the world. Since few people actually read the "Student Information" (probably the wise ones), I thought that the debate should be brought into the open.

The first important thing to realize is that there is no conclusive proof for either theory. There is evidence to indicate that both theories are correct, and also there is information that could serve to disprove either theory. To me, however, the reasoning of the creationists is clearly more convincing. The evidence to support my view will be presented in this article.

First, I will focus on the evidence that tends to prove creationism. The first is the fossil record. Many scientists point to fossils found around the world as evidence of evolution. The reality, however, is that fossils offer no evidence to show that we all evolved from a common ancestor. No "missing links" have ever been found between species, and many that have been purported as evidence were, in fact, later found to be hoaxes. Perhaps the two best examples of this are the fossils of the Cro-Magnon man and the Archaeopteryx, the "bird" dinosaur, supposedly linking the dinosaurs to modern birds. Unfortunately for evolutionists, both examples were proven to be fakes.

Another aspect of the fossils record is dating. According to the Bible, from where my trust in the theory of creationism comes, the earth is only about 4000 years old, which is not consistent with the fossil record if we trust modern carbon-14 dating techniques. Carbon-14 dating has, however, already shown itself flawed in several instances. And this certainly does not surprise me, considering that we are trusting this technique after only about 50 years of experimentation and one rejected theory after another. Even the existence of fossils in the first place lends credence to the Biblical account of Genesis, since any intelligent scientist will tell you that a worldwide flood would provide the perfect conditions to make fossils.

The fact that the Bible has been proven historically accurate in every instance also lends credit to the theory that it advances. The fact, however, that it is a primarily religious book leaves little room to

incorporate it into this exposition, except in terms of the theory that it advances and its accounts of various civilizations.

Next, it is essential that we recognize that, although evolution from a common ancestor is a valid theory, it has more holes than a block of Swiss cheese. Historically speaking, one must realize that Charles Darwin proposed the idea of evolution within species, and he regretted having proposed the theory at all once it was taken out of context and put into the modern-day form of the theory. Besides the issues already considered above, we also have to wonder why not all animals formed to become humans, since we are undoubtedly the supreme biological force on this earth. In addition, several animals such as the cockroach and the cocklebur (a "prehistoric" fish recently found off the coast of Africa) have supposedly been around for millions of years. If this is so, why are the ancient fossils of these animals consistent with their physiology today? Further, the theory of evolution does not account for many of the extinctions that have occurred through the ages, except by positing strange catastrophic events, such as a meteor impact. There is, though, no evidence of such a catastrophe on earth. Yet the Bible (again, used here for its history, not its religion) accounts for all of this with the Great Flood and the subsequent climate change. Finally, the odds that spontaneous biogenesis could occur, as evolutionists suggest, are one in 10^{34} (for those of you who are not math people, that number is a 1 followed by one thousand and twenty-four zeroes). In statistics, such an occurrence is considered impossible for all practical purposes.

Regardless of how many arguments will be made for either side, the debate over the origins of life on this earth will never end until life on this earth does. We can only hope that in the future those who make the arguments will be a bit more informed when they make their arguments.

(Much information for this article was gathered from The Genesis Record.)

(The views and data within this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect either the views or the reasoning of the staff of the Bell Ringer.)

Anti-Creationism

By Chris Smith - Opinionated Editor

A neglected copy of the Holy Bible sits on my desk as I write. While I do not regularly read this book, I often keep it close by as a reference for the many theological debates I instigate. I just finished reading Andrew Keyser's defense of Creationism. In his article Keyser says: "the fact that the Bible has been proven historically accurate in every instance also lends credit to the theory that it advances." Mr. Keyser goes on to claim: "the fact that it is a primarily religious book leaves little room to incorporate it into this discussion in anything other than in terms of the theory that it advances and its accounts of various civilizations." In refuting these claims, I must look both to the Holy Bible and to the body of Mr. Keyser's article.

If the Bible "has been proven historically correct in every instance," then there must be significant evidence to prove that "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Such evidence would first have to prove that a God existed. Evidence proving the existence of the heavens would also have to exist. As far as I can tell, no proof exists which irrefutably proves the existence of a God or of the heavens (if it did, Mr. Keyser's article would not be necessary). If we are willing to read

past the unsupported claims of the first instance of the Bible, we will read that Adam lived to be 930 years old. In order for Adam to live 930 years, he must first exist. Proof of Adam's existence, however, is specious at best. Adam's incredible life span is also not proven. The Bible, then, has not been proven historically correct in every instance.

Mr. Keyser admits that the Bible is a religious book and thus can not be used to support a scientific argument in anything other than a historical context. With this logic in mind, however, he still incorporates the Great Flood—a purely religious occasion—into his argument. If we are to look to the Bible as a historical document, we must consider the cause of the Great Flood. Theologically, the Flood is caused by man's iniquity. The Bible offers no scientific cause for the Great Flood. As the Flood is a divine punishment for sin, it can hold no water in a logical argument. If the Bible truly had been proven historically correct in all aspects, then it would be an infallible source and anything in it would be corroborated fact. Mr. Keyser would not need to write a single word to prove creationism if the Bible were indisputable. But, as it is not, we must look to logic and reason if we are to explain the origins of the earth.

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9/11 (Cont'd.)

During America's "war on terrorism" China and Russia supported the U.S. This is a rare and wonderful thing.

Since September 11, many U.S. citizens have supported a new respect for

police and firemen. FDNY now adorns many a cap and t-shirt.

When George Bush was elected in 2000, he was elected by a minority of the popular vote, so people were skeptical of

his leadership abilities. But in the months after September 11, as he mobilized the country against terrorism, his authority and popularity have climbed.

September 11 has wrought many changes around the U.S., but perhaps the greatest change of all was in spirit. As the

towers crumbled, so did our hearts. An immense hatred for senseless wickedness in the American people. We all cried out for justice. We stood united against a common enemy. Let's just hope our passion will be tempered with reason.

My Hatred Praise for The Yankees

By Ted Tywang - Sports Editor

I hate respect the New York Yankees with all my heart. They are a bunch of ~~bums~~ great guys, ~~scumbags~~ class acts, and ~~lowlifes~~ fantastic ballplayers who are ~~disgracefully overpaid~~ deserving of every penny. This October, it is a given that the Yankees will ~~buy~~ win another world championship. It's no wonder that the Yankees always win. They have more money than any other team in the Major Leagues. As I witness their inevitable

success this October, I will tremble with rage, marvel at their skill and then ~~gauge~~ my eyes out with a spoon applied their achievement. I am dreading greatly looking forward to Mr. Caldwell's celebrating.

As a die-hard Red Sox fan, I have died very hard this season. As my ~~stupid~~ beloved Sox possessed the best record in baseball for the first two months of the season, I ~~knew they would blow it~~ thought this year might be difficult. As they choked

it away and their hardest, I ~~cried myself to~~ sleep remained confident and began taking. Please hoped for the best. Recently, as the playoffs became an impossibility, I ~~completely stopped watching baseball~~ continued to loyally support my team. I have begun to accept the Red Sox's perennial failure with manic depression cheerful optimism.

This October, I will be rooting for whoever the Yankees are playing the

Yankees. After all, what's not to ~~loathe~~ love about the Bronx Bombers? They have a ~~little~~ get future hall-of-famer for a shortstop, a ~~Heinrich Arnold~~ major world class pitcher in Roger Clemens, and are owned by (a) ~~dirty old man~~ outstanding citizens. I am so sick ~~kind~~ of the Yankees. I hope nobody everyone watches the ~~sleep-inducing~~ electrifying baseball playoffs and says, "Go ~~A's/Angels/Twins/Diamondbacks/Tigers/~~ Cardinals and Braves Yankees!"

Vandy Football - A Bright Future

By Curtis Lane - Staff writer

After watching Vanderbilt blow a lead against South Carolina and drop to 1-4 on the season (0-1 SEC), I was thinking that it couldn't get much worse (unless there happened to be a return of Woodyball). Then, I started thinking about the bright spots this season, and realized there were a few. Despite their losing record, new coach Bobby Johnson and Chancellor Gordon Gee have the football program moving in the right

direction. Their new practice and workout facilities are state-of-the-art, and recruiting is finally improving. In addition, training table chef Magid "Mogik" Noori recently won his second Sports Illustrated award as the best in the country.

Unlike in the past, "Mogik" is not the only bright spot. Dan Stricker is on his way to becoming one of the greatest wide receivers in SEC history and has a chance to

break the all-time SEC receiving record for yardage. Then, Jay Cutler and WR Grant Brighams were recently suspended indefinitely for "violation of team rules." Cutler was already showing great improvement since his first game and had the skills to be an excellent quarterback for years to come. BA graduate Benji Walker will now start and try to replace Cutler as the leader of the offense and future of the team.

The only bright spot is true freshman Kwame Doster. Following the South Carolina game on September 24th, Doster is tied for 7th nationally and 1st among freshmen in All-Purpose yards with 789. Furthermore, Doster ranks 1st in the nation with 507 kick-return yards. Sophomore Norval McKenzie, with 346 yards (7.8 per carry), also looks very promising at tailback. With the recent suspension of Cutler, these two will have to play an even larger role if the team is to have success. One very important, but often overlooked, position is kicker, and last year Vandy really did not have one. This year, freshman Greg Johnson has provided much-needed stability at kicker, a big boost to the offense.

On defense, Vanderbilt has been much better than last year, led by MBA graduates Hunter Hillenmeyer, Moses Omonogwa, and Dominique Morris. The loss of Moses and Dominique against South Carolina put the Commodores at a huge disadvantage. Hillenmeyer, currently second in the SEC in tackles with 68, has become the leader of the Commodore defense. Behind Coach Bobby Johnson's discipline, Vandy is the least penalized team in the SEC, with only 213 penalty yards (42.6 per game). Vandy has improved greatly since their first game against Georgia Tech, a 41-3 loss, and were turning some heads in the SEC. Even in losses to Ole Miss, South Carolina, and Auburn, they played well and kept it close right down to the end of the game.

Another reason for the bright future is that the nucleus of this team will be around for a while. They will have 15 returning starters next year, only losing 4 on offense and 3 on defense. One question for the future will be whether or not Walker can replace Cutler at quarterback. Another question will be whether or not sophomore Brandon Smith and redshirt-freshman Keith can step up and replace Dan Stricker and M.J. Garrett next year. Hunter Hillenmeyer and Rashon Jones, the captain, will also be big losses, but hopefully Dominique and Moses can fill those voids. Even with the questions at WR and on defense, Vanderbilt should be a little better over the next few years.

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What's Wrong with the Titans?

By Davey Douglass-Staff Writer

Well, it looks like the Titans might just have a repeat of last year's dismal season. After starting the season strong with a great come-from-behind victory over the Philadelphia Eagles, they lost to the horrid Dallas Cowboys and blew a 2-touchdown lead against the Cleveland Browns. If the Titans' defense doesn't get it in gear, their season just goes down the drain.

Injuries have hurt the Titans once again this year, as starting defensive end Jevon Kearse went down with a broken foot a few plays into the season opener, and will be out 6-8 weeks. Last year undrafted free agent Carlos Hall replaced him and had a 3 and 1/2 sack performance, but it seemed to be a fluke, as he was quiet in the team's next two games. New running back Robert Hoekstra is also out with a hip injury, and his return is not known. Also, Eddie

George's toe seems to be bothering him again, so he had to go to the hospital after the Dallas game. To exacerbate the loss of Kearse, it seems that the whole secondary is sore from a variety of injuries.

On the subject of defense, the Titans' defense is looking pretty pitiful this year. The secondary is giving up huge pass plays, and the whole defensive unit forgot how to tackle. The Titans' defense, ranked #1 two years ago, might end up being the Titans' downfall this year. If the secondary can't get it together, then don't count on seeing the Titans in late January. One bright spot in the defense has been two year pro Andre Dyson, Kevin's younger brother. Against the Browns, he picked off

Tim Couch and took it back 22 yards for a TD. His int. return and Kevin's touchdown make them part of a rarity: brothers who score in the same game.

The Titans' horrible defense almost cancels out their rapidly improving offense. Steve McNair is running and throwing well this year without the pain he felt last year. The receivers, especially Derrick Mason, are catching the ball and getting positive yardage. The one thing hampering the offense is the running game, as Eddie's toe is bothering him and the running backs seem to get taken down as soon as they hit the line of scrimmage.

The special teams are pretty good this year, with a great kicking game but an

ally return game. John Simon and Eddie Berlin are taking Derrick Mason's place on kick off return. Simon has

also replaced Mason on punt return, which gives Derrick a chance to focus more on becoming a better wideout. Joe Nedney is punting teams in their own territory with his booming kickoffs, and Craig Henrich is doing the same with his punts. With the rough start to the season, fans can only hope that Jeff Fisher can turn the team around. The whole defense needs work, and the running game

needs a jumpstart. If the Titans can improve in those areas, the playoff hopes go up dramatically.



Steve McNair has been the only bright spot for the Titans this year.



The Titans miss Jevon Kearse on defense.

Not Much October Magic in Sports So Far

By John Eason-Editor-in-Chief

Much has happened in the sports world since the last *Rolling Stone* issue. One thing has not changed: the Trans are still terrible. Here is a quick update of the last month, let the whining begin.

Yes, the United States did lose the Ryder Cup. Yes, the U.S. has the first, second, sixth, seventh, and tenth best players in the world, including a certain Eldrick "Tiger" Woods. Yes, Curtis Strange should have been sent as a reminder for his, not The Belfry. But that is not the point. Did anyone see Sergio Garcia? That little Father Ryan game was bouncing up and down all over

the course. And don't forget the Swede Nicklas Fast. "I wanted to fight him all day," said Paul Azinger of the U.S., who had Fast by holing a bunker shot on the last hole.

"He was pumping his fist from the first hole. I told his caddy, 'What is this crap?' I mean, what's he trying to do, incite me?" Who said golf isn't a contact sport? But I won't bore you with golf, even though I know Mr. Kelly is savoring this moment of European dominance (since very few exist).

T a c e baseball playoffs have now gotten underway and there is no bigger surprise than the Anaheim

Angels. Yep, they sent the Bronx Bombers home with nothing but a trip to Disneyland. No more October magic in New York. No more "Thereee Yankees Win! Thereee Yankees Win!" No more Derek Jeter. Amen. Meanwhile the Cardinals look like the team to beat as they cruised past the defending champion Diamondbacks with a 3-0 series victory. Even though Larry Bonds has finally

found his swing for this year's playoffs, the Giants still are down 2-1 to the Atlanta Braves with both teams having one home game left. As far as the A's and Twins go, I don't really care. Talk amongst yourselves for those two.

Now it would not be a sports article if I didn't rip Vandy a little. I will have to say, though, that there is not too much to rip them on. It's not as though they have lost four out of their first five games, blowing two of them in the fourth quarter. It's not as though the only wins they are going to have this year will be against Division II teams. And it certainly doesn't seem like their quarterback has any flaws this year. In the South Carolina game, he played very well under pressure, as he threw three straight passes on the first drive right into the hands of Gamecocks, until finally one got intercepted. Jay Cutler has

been also been very smart and disciplined off the field. He has not been drinking excessively or ripping out security wires or running from the cops. So I really can't find anything that I have against Vandy.

One final statement I would like to make for all you anti-Seminole out there on Student Information. Florida State was the best in the '90s decade. Yes, they are having a bit of slide last year and this year. But they will run some teams' seasons this year (Miami, Notre Dame, N.C. State, Florida, and Notre Dame) so don't think our season is over. And please, if you are going to rip any sports team on Student Information, please let us know who your team is, so you can get back what you rightly deserve.

I only have one more thing to say. For you Vandy fans, only a Vandy quarterback could get run down and caught by a Barney Fife rent-a-cop policemen.



Somebody shut this Spaniard up.



Won't have to see these Pinstripes anymore.

A Slice Above the Rest Junior Class Gossip

By Chris Gioia - Staff writer

By David Harper - Junior Class Secretary

One Saturday afternoon in September Andrew Borge, Cotton Clark, Paul Crook, Will Smith, Caldwell Tanner, Scott Vaughn, Jesse Wright, and I decided to get together and test out some various pizza places in Nashville. We decided to try four delivery places and two take-out places. The restaurants were Domino's, Michaelangelo's, Pizza Perfect, Bellacino's, Pizza Hut, and Papa John's. It actually turned out that only three places delivered to my house. Pizza Hut for some reason does not deliver to my area. This lack of delivery already put Pizza Hut on a bad note in my head, because it's not as if my house, which is right next to MHA, is in an odd location. Now we were going to have to do work and drive down to Vanderbilt to get the pizza.

After sending these people to pick up the three take-outs - Bellacino's, Pizza Hut, and Pizza Perfect - we decided to record the delivery time of the other pizzas. (See the chart at the bottom for the pizza specs.) The fastest pizza was Domino's, with a time of 25:00. Right after the Domino's man arrived, the Michaelangelo's delivery lady showed up, and they actually knew each other and were friends. So they even had a conversation on my porch for a little while. Then, after 44 minutes and 23 seconds, finally Papa John's shows up, after the non-delivery pizzas had already been brought home. We all felt this was a poor performance by Papa John's, especially with the popularity they have.

Then all of us, even though we were really eager to start eating, weighed and measured each pizza. Each of these pizzas was a large, cheese pizza. The \$9.32 Bellacino's pizza was the largest weighing 4 pounds and stretching 15.5 inches long. Bellacino's pizza was not only the largest but also the least expensive. The smallest pizza was that of Pizza Hut, weighing in at 2.5 lbs and having a 13-inch diameter, but costing \$13.43. Yet again Pizza Hut is lacking by being the smallest and most expensive. After weighing them, we got down to the real business, tasting the pizza. This was the moment everyone had been looking forward to the whole day. After each savoring at least 6 slices of pizza, and feeling as if our stomachs were going to explode, we held an intense brainstorming session to see which pizza reigned over all others.

We each told what our favorite pizzas had been in order from best to last

and then added the numbers up to find out what was best. The best pizza was Bellacino's, followed closely by Pizza Perfect. Next came Papa John's, then Pizza Hut. Penultimate was Domino's, and last was Michaelangelo's. We then thought even harder to find out what was good and what was bad about each pizza. We all agreed that Bellacino's had the best cheese, and all its other ingredients were good; however, some people said the crust was too crispy, complained about the lack of delivery, and disliked the square slices. Pizza Perfect had a great taste and smell and was very greasy (sometimes a good quality), but the cheese

slid off the pizza, the pizza was too floppy, and the cheese almost "looked fake." Papa John's had good sauce and crust and all of us agreed that it had "better ingredients, better pizza," but it tasted packaged, was not fresh enough, and the cheese was too thick and

dry. The slow delivery time didn't make Papa John's look as good either. Pizza Hut's cheese and bread were well together, and the cheese was the right thickness, but it had too strong of a sauce, thin slices, and is sold at Taco Bell, which is never a bonus. The lack of delivery also was not too helpful for Pizza Hut, and ordering on the phone with Pizza Hut took the most time. Domino's had a nice sauce, they give away free things (cinnamon sticks, etc.) sometimes, and ordering on the phone with them was easy; they gave me the coupon discount, even though I didn't have a coupon. The downside of Domino's was that it is just average pizza and there is nothing that distinguishes its taste. Finally, after not being able to come up with any good qualities for Michaelangelo's, we said it had bad sauce, not enough cheese, and too thick of a crust. So next time you are in the mood for a good pizza, head on over to Bellacino's, because it not only is the cheapest, but also is the best pizza.

*These weights and diameters are not completely accurate, but somewhat close.

Pizza Place/Ranking, (Delivery Time, Weight, Diameter, Price)

1. Bellacino's (N/A, 4 lbs, 15.5 inches, \$9.32)
2. Pizza Perfect (N/A, 3 lbs, 14 inches, \$9.78)
3. Papa John's (44:23, 3 lbs, 13.5 inches, \$10.91)
4. Pizza Hut (N/A, 2.5 lbs, 13 inches, \$13.43)
5. Domino's (25:00, 3 lbs, 13.5 inches, \$10.91)
6. Michaelangelo's (25:26, 3.5 lbs, 14 inches, \$10.91)

The Saturday of September 14, the Junior class joint effort of MHA and Harpeth Hall earned 400 dollars washing cars. All the money went to charity. Ann Wyatt's got a new boy in town, ask Matt Smith or Sam Garner. Cole has considered an early application to the college he feels embodies himself the best, Ball State. Everyone go see Bill Brown's painting in Mr. Kelly's room in Wallace. Anybody up for a game of UNO... Sam???. Thanks to his hot-pink flyers on telephone poles, Wilson found his kitty-kat that had been missing for a short time. The Prom theme committee consisting of Scott Pettus, Ben Poon, James Dade, Matthew Barnes, David

Regan, and Ryan Nevins are pumping out ideas such as Harry Potter prom, Naked prom, and circus freak prom. Schuller is looking to sell his Schwinn Turbo X Mountain Bike. \$500 or best offer. Interesting trades considered. Benson Sloan is a self-proclaimed new breed of defensive back, the piggy-back, modeling himself after Fred Smoot. Charlie Paic asks all of us to keep him in our thoughts and prayers as the fungus on his foot continues to devour his foot. Quilt Haseynov loves GOLD, not almost had to have his arm amputated when it turned blue after seven head trauma. DUDNEY BOUGHT AN AUTOMATIC CORVETTE



Group poses after stuffing their faces

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to bellringer@mc.montgomerybell.com. Those letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

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Sy the Photo Guy

By John Patten - Staff writer

Film has seen a handful of brilliant directors create insightful movie-going experiences by analyzing the multi-faceted human psyche in depth, but seldom have we seen these projects completed successfully on an artist's first attempt at movie-making. The world was stunned in 1999 when Alan Ball presented the intensely dark portrait of not-so-pretty suburban lives in his film, *American Beauty*. His great vision

nominated for Academy Awards. Roseanne's vision and cinematographer Cronsweth's stark film techniques provide big psychological thrills and make the audience squirm in their seats by blurring the line of fiction and reality in their own lives.

But even with such a good film on the merits of its plot, many people have asked "What's the point?" One lady behind me coming out of the theater said, "That's the



Sy Parrish (Robin Williams) checking his style in *One Hour*

worst movie I've ever seen." I say to these people: the movie is not for morons. The theme of the film is so deep and taboo-breaking that shallow people would never accept it even if they understood the depth of loneliness that Sy feels.

Sy Parrish is no doubt what we call "insane" (if there ever was such a thing), but we can definitely sympathize with Sy as his "insanity" stems from the child abuse and the sick fantasies of his father that he is forced to play out. Despite his problems, he still maintains some level of social skills: he can communicate with people, he is always smiling, and he wants the best for people as we see in his love for Jake Yorkin, the child of the family he obsesses over. The stubbornly close-minded moviegoers see

him as purely a stalker when Sy just wants to be loved. His "confrontations" later in the movie are just puffed attempts to keep the pain of neglect that he suffered from happening to another child. He can even be seen as the hero, stepping up to challenge the inertia of malevolence when everyone else seems to be complacent. His intentions are pure, but his execution of those ideas is frantic and rash, a side effect of his "mental disorder."

Sy was a selfless character, donating his life to make other people's photo-remembrances beautiful and exquisitely perfect. He even turns into (granted, not into the real thing) a bleak, Christ-like figure (without the religion) late into the plot. He is like Christ when Jesus was working the temple that had become a gambling hang-out, thinking straight but acting a little over the top. Jesus Christ took the damnation of the human race into his own hands by opening up the gates of

By the Way - Buy the CD

By Jack Davis - Staff Writer

The Red Hot Chili Peppers confirmed their evolution from late '80's early '90's funk rockers to 21st century melodic-harmonizers, first evident on 1999's *Californication* with their July 2002 release *By the Way*, which is, by the way, far more consistent than any of their previous LPs. Each and every song on the new album holds up well after repeated listening, but inevitably some songs are better than others. "Can't Stop" is one such song. Its combination of rap verses, an addictive sing-songy chorus, and bassist Flea's funky bass line make it one of the album's best tracks. "Dosed" and "Tear" are also excellent. Relying on lead singer Anthony Kiedis' newfound beautifully soothing vocals, these two tracks best exemplify the Chili Peppers' new sound. Further proof of evolution is "Cabezon," a Latin-sounding pop tune showcasing guitarist John Frusciante's versatility, and the duo of "On Mercury" and "Minor Thing." Funk metal is not totally forgotten, though—"Throw Away Your Television" sounds like something from

1992's *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*, as do the verses in the hit single *By the Way*. All in all, though, the Chili Peppers are a totally different band from the one that once performed wearing nothing but socks on their yoo-know-whats. Such dramatic change inevitably results in criticism.

A music fan from Andover, PA writes, "[By the Way] makes an excellent Frober. I suggest using it exclusively for that purpose." Others have shared his sentiments, complaining that the Chili Peppers have betrayed their original fans, that they have "sold out" with *By the Way*. Readers, I beg to differ. *By the Way* is instantly the Chili Peppers' best record and is perhaps the best album of 2002. Nay, nay, I want you to shut your mouths until you have heard the entire album. If you are still unsatisfied with it after having done so, then and only then can you criticize the Chili Peppers. By simply labeling them "sellouts" before hearing each of the sixteen tracks in its entirety, you only confirm your unbridled prejudice.

Heaven. Sy Parrish attempts the same feat by trying to infill repentance into the evil men in the world and bring them to goodness, but his way of salvation for the Yorkin family late in the plot is poorly planned and ends up as a federal crime. The cinematography also suggests a Christ-like representation. When the photoman is unveiled, the lighting is dark everywhere except for the spotlight shining on his face. The harmless, chubby man ended up misunderstood in his life and viewed as the antagonist by many people. A striking resemblance to the crucifixion of Jesus. In the end, however, whether Sy stood as a representation of Christ or he was simply proof for the human potential movement through a depiction of a (turned) rose that grew from concrete, the pitiful Sy Parrish will likely remain a grossly misinterpreted character like that of the scorned Jesus Christ.

Remember *The Shining*? Chrisanthrope Does!

By Christopher Schuller - Staff writer

This month, the *Bell Ringer* flashes back to 1980, when, although we have to shoot over the lead, obnoxious, drives-out death of Disco in the background, our hearts are strengthened with thoughts of punk rock, queer synthesized drum tracks, and Bruce Springsteen in progressively weirder album cover photos. While you're still lingering in 1984 staring at his butt on the front of Born in the USA, however, I'm already 22 years back, talking about the big eight-zero's outstanding film, Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*.

Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall

(aka the World's Ugliest Woman) team up to play the anti-Claremont, gone to spend the winter all alone in a totally isolated ski resort. Nope, I didn't see a horror film coming either. Yeah. Right. The moment Jack Torrance's (Nicholson) soon-to-be employer explains that former holders of Torrance's job have gone crazy and killed their families, I'm already having visions of psychotic hatchets, pea soup, and carving knives coming through shower curtains.

Don't be fooled by blissful mountain scenery and admittedly beautiful turn-of-the-century architecture: you are

going to be scared by this movie. Whether it's huge scary black dudes with telepathic capabilities, small children possessed by things that would make Satan wet himself, or rivers of blood avalanching out of open elevators, Steven King's literary fork-in-a-teaser is done the justice that only a genius like Kubrick could bestow on the highest of visual media.

The Shining also gave birth to some of the more famous American horror cliché. Ask any contemporary to explain "Redrum" to you; or, if not, have you ever heard a verbally constipated Nicholson

impersonator utter the words "Here's Johnny?" Prepare to forget about it, as I did forever when that psycho axed his way into a bathroom and coined the phrase.

Featuring Danny Lloyd, who makes Haley Joel Osment look like Macaulay Culkin, Jack Nicholson in his horrifyingest of roles, and, without a doubt, the World's Ugliest Woman. Watch for great use deaths, rivers of blood that would make Moses duck, and killer ('scuse the pun) utilization of snowmobiles, bourbon, and a typewriter (almost in the same breath).

Book Review *Bye Bye Birdie* - Thoughts on a Great Experience

Twelve: A Novel

By Jack Davis - Staff Writer

By Josh Mayhew - Entertainment Editor

This July, a seventeen-year old prep school kid from NYC named Nick McDonell made his debut on bestseller lists everywhere with *Twelve: A Novel*.

The book, set in McDonell's hometown, portrays a few days in the lives of the drug-dealing White Mike and his associates—prep-school kids who have returned to the city for Christmas break. Each of the characters is pretty original—McDonell avoids clichéd pitfalls such as head cheerleader, star quarterback, fat girl, and computer geek. Instead, he uses his obvious insight as an NYC prep-schooler himself to create complex characters that seem realistic. Hunter, for instance, is a semi-jock semi-intellectual with average self-esteem who occasionally likes to get high; while Sara is a manipulative beauty lacking a sense of direction who also sometimes turns to drugs to forget her problems. White Mike, though, is the most fascinating of all—he's a genius high-school dropout drug-dealer who has never smoked a cigarette, consumed alcohol, or "sucked down a doobie." Because of intricacies like these in the numerous characters, any student at MBA or Harpeth Hall who reads this work, whether he or she wants to admit it or not, will identify with one or two of the teenagers portrayed.

Despite McDonell's brilliant characterization, however, *Twelve* is by no means a monumental piece of fiction. Its plot is rather predictable—diligent readers will have an idea of the climax about halfway through the book. Also, McDonell's constant pop culture references are somewhat suspicious because of their inconsistency. In some cases, they are downright hilarious: "White Mike saw that movie *American Beauty* about a kid who is a drug dealer and buys expensive video equipment with the money he makes. The kid says that sometimes there is so much beauty in the world that sometimes you just can't take it." Other allusions, though, are like the upside-down make-out scene in *Spider-Man*—cool, yet totally gratuitous. McDonell should have stuck to his own ideas in these situations instead of mentioning something like Nelly's "Ride Wit Me." All in all, though, *Twelve* holds up pretty well as a novel. The numerous flashbacks McDonell employs to develop his characters create poetic beauty and thus show his true promise as a young writer; and the shock value of the novel's climax is absolutely through the roof. For these reasons, despite *Twelve*'s obvious flaws, I recommend it to any mature student at MBA. I think it would be great if English teachers at MBA could incorporate this novel or something similar to it into the curriculum. Though its subject matter is controversial to say the least, I guarantee you Nick McDonell's *Twelve* would boost interest.

"So far so good, but let's see if we can get through Act Two!" Caroline Ramsey said to me as the audience filtered out for intermission. She and the rest of the excited cast were turning on pure adrenaline. The weeks of work spent on the show had finally paid off, culminating into a wonderful array of color, music, and impressive talent.

Bye Bye Birdie sold out all five of its September performances, improving every time it was shown. In the waning days leading up to Opening Night, tickets were scarce, and many people were left without a way to get into the show. However, those who had gotten tickets in advance were treated to a carefully crafted and well-prepared show by my fellow cast members and me.

What never ceases to amaze me is how the dedication of the cast kept the show going when things got a little shaky. When Rachel Howell (the "screamer") lost her voice

the week before the show, she still actively stayed on top of things and worked even harder. When Paul Reynolds (Prepers) hurt his hip, he went on with the show and was still able to catch flying girls in the showstopping "Shiners." The show



Richard Howell as Birdie

included many lead talents such as Hunter Mobley, Caroline Ramsey, Richard Howell, Margaret Riley, and Alvin Love. Much of the show's humor came from many other hilarious roles, including the likes of Gregory McCord, Katie Thorgilms, Desi Pote, Wesley Hughes, Liz Warner and the fabulous Sarah Mayhew as "Mama." Most of the show, however, was a large ensemble chorus that truly put the topping on the cake. The near thirty chorus members loved the town of Sweet Apple, and sent chills up the

spine of any viewer when the curtains opened for "Ed Sullivan," revealing a colorfully harmonious choir singing about the idealized figure of the entertainment industry.

Ed Sullivan (played by Matt Nemer) is, importantly, however, the show lived up to the expectations that everyone set for it. I can confidently say that this was one of the best shows I have done, and I encourage anyone to try out for next year's musical production.

Speaking of auditions, anyone interested in joining the next show is welcome and encouraged to try out for the instantly enigmatic *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut—the play about Billy Pilgrim, a man "unstuck in time." Dr. Fuller directs, and auditions will be held on October 7-8. Also, don't miss the Harpeth Hall production of *She Sleeps in Company*, with Brian Christie, Wesley Hughes, Jay Howell, Laura Lee Bryant, and many more familiar faces.



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Quinn's Car of the Issue

Subject: Rob Delaney's disco-rod '78 Chevy Malibu
Nicknames: The Paramobile, The Red Rocket
Car type: Automatic, V-8 sedan

Comfort factor: superb; sink into leather; felt seats easily, both AC and heat work, air very cold and refreshing
Exterior: tint peeling, but otherwise intact
Wrecks: 1

Rob's description: "Uh, it's a funny story. I was driving down the road, minding my own business, when this car hit me from behind. He ended up totaling his car, but my Malibu came away undamaged,

not even a scratch. Uh, huh, huh, huh! (in his weird voice)

Special features: the Club on steering wheel ("People are always trying to take my car"); "2 Hoony" pills in glove compartment ("Uh,



"People are always trying to take my car!"



The Distinguishing Touch

Sound System: excellent sound quality; front and rear speakers; replacement Kenwood tape deck

Interior: red, leather and velvet interior; spacious and roomy in front and back; interior carpet ripped from metal in some areas

Handler: surprisingly smooth, though shuts off 90 seconds after first started

Pool factor: excellent, especially at Brighton turn off Bowling (going about 38 mph)

0-40 mph: about 25 seconds with downhill, couldn't get much past 42 mph



"Uh... it was a gift from this girl..."

it was a gift from this girl..."; hole on back left armrest with plastic that disintegrates when touched

Party factor: high; girls love it, perfect for around town and weekends

Distinguishing touch: rearview mirror shaped like Chevy symbol

Malibu vs. Datsun: Definitely has a '70s, disco thing going, but pretty much all of the features work. Because of this relative intactness, the Malibu must be penalized but will receives 8 out of 10 Datsuns.

Five Weeks in South Africa

After spending five weeks in South Africa with Dave Boyd this summer, I now have a completely different perspective on the rest of the world. We saw the things usually associated with Africa (lions, elephants, cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, etc.) when we visited the Kruger National Park and a private game reserve. In fact, on one night drive, we followed a lion down a dirt road for about fifteen minutes, shining our spotlight on the animal while still trying to stay at least a couple of yards away. But that was only one part of an experience that I will never forget.

For the first ten days, we stayed with Gerard Noel and his family. Gerard is one of the two guys who came on exchange from Michaelhouse last year. His house is on a farm, and we spent much of our time driving around his land or recovering from the jet lag we experienced coming over. His whole family was very welcoming, and his mom cooked us great meals; we got to try native dishes, such as borsvoren (their version of Italian sausage) and Coles sisters

(a sweet dessert). Gerard and his brother even took us hunting a couple of nights around their property. It was hard to leave such a relaxed environment, but we had to get back into school-mode to go to Michaelhouse.

My first impression of Michaelhouse was how much it stood out in comparison with the rest of the places in the country. South Africa is a third world country, and many of its people live in poverty. On the way to the school, we drove past several towns made up entirely of small, open-window clay homes, a sight that is even more shocking considering it is the middle of the winter there. However, Michaelhouse looks more like a castle, with its interconnected brick buildings and medieval architecture. The campus was beautiful, surrounded by green hills and rugby fields. The students and faculty were friendly and especially interested in our backgrounds because we were American; most of the guys knew of Tennessee because of Jack Daniels.

While the rest of you were at the beach or sleeping late, we had to go to four classes every day - English, History, Geography, and Art. Our teachers were lenient, though, and did not give us very much work. Afternoons consisted of rugby practice, where Dave and I represented our country proudly on the seventh team, which also happened to be the worst one. To give you an idea of the talent with which we were playing: one practice, while our coach was trying to scrounge up enough players for a game that weekend, one teammate returned up the situation by saying, "This looks like the making of a Disney movie." But we did all right, going 1-1 while we were on the team. Dave and I played wing and both scored tries (the equivalent of a touchdown in football) in the two games.

Weekends at the school were filled with trips to Shalaland and Durban, where we learned about the Zulu culture and swam in the Durban ocean. We also got to go to some clubs in a little town near the school named Pietermaritzburg. My stay at

Michaelhouse was my first real boarding experience, something that is not as bad as it sounds but which I would never be able to get used to during high school. The food was probably the worst part of the school; MRA lunches seemed better than some of the stuff they served there. The school spirit was the most impressive part of the school; for the first team rugby games, every student, from eighth to twelfth grade, put on a coat and tie and stood in the stands, cheering on Michaelhouse at the top of their lungs. They all knew the songs and cheers and even knew how to spell out the school initials using their blazers.

Looking back on my exchange, I can say that it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I saw an entirely different side of the world, and it was a huge eye-opener for me. I encourage anyone interested in meeting new people and experiencing new cultures to apply for this exchange because I know it will be an unforgettable one.

Mac or Microsoft? The Debate Goes on

By Josiah Garson - Columnist

This month in Tech Front I would like to address an age-old question that has come up quite frequently recently on the Student Information debate: the issue of the superiority of Macintosh or Microsoft.

Microsoft:

Admit it, the majority of America uses Microsoft Windows-based machines. The price is lower, and most people are used to the system. The major turning point in Microsoft's past occurred when it, unlike Macintosh, allowed its software to be packaged with computers that were not purchased directly from it. It was this single marketing technique that has driven Microsoft to the top. Microsoft has, at least, been mildly useful for its existence, but recently, a number of developments by the new "golden arches" have caused Microsoft to fall further out of favor among its onetime constituency. Microsoft and Macintosh

have both developed new OS platforms that have "X" in the name, but Microsoft's has shown far less potential and far less acceptability among the old timers of the computer world. Administrative-level machines hardly ever run Windows XP due to its many new "safety" features that prevent them from using their old resources around troublesome networking problems. Compounded upon the safety is a limit on the number of times Windows XP can be installed, preventing users from re-installing Windows regularly (once every few years) as must be done. Windows has an unfortunate tendency to degrade over time, resulting in slowing down of tasks and a need for backup and reinstallation to repair the computer's pathways and make it usable again. Finally, there is the Palladium chip. We all read about it on the Student Information, and there was not one positive response. Microsoft is facing some serious

trouble in the time ahead, losing clientele to other OS's and popularity among the buying public. Compound that with antitrust concerns and you have a company struggling to maintain its profit margins.

Macintosh:

Ah, the Macintosh computer. Summed up in a few words, it is superior, stable, more expensive, and less compatible. Macintosh has its ups, and its downs. By far a superior system for its graphics, stability, and ability to conserve CPU cycles, the Macintosh is only hindered because of its price and incompatibility. But those are big obstacles to overcome. The library of Macintosh software is small in comparison with PC titles. On top of that, when a title does come out for Mac, it is usually quite a time after it appears on its Windows-based competitors. The price of a Macintosh can be thousands of dollars higher than a PC,

largely because Macintosh OS is only available on an Apple-Mac computer. This marketing decision is the flipside of the one Microsoft made, mentioned above. It was this pair of decisions that resulted in Microsoft's hegemony of the OS world. So, to use an analogy, an allusion, a bit of jargon, and a pun all at once, Macintosh was "Beta-Mac-ed": the superior system destroyed by the inferior simply for compatibility and price.

There are of course many other systems, but they have even less of a following than the Macintosh. We are left for now with little choice, and Windows-based machines are far in the lead. As Macintosh makes it easier and easier to run Windows programming, however, and as Microsoft continues to utilize technologies that upset its buyers, we may yet see a turnaround in the OS war in our lifetimes.

Josiah Garson

Technology Bridges Sight Restoration

By Ro Choudhry - Staff Writer

Sight is a sought-for goal of the blind, who have never had the privilege of observing the world. Technology has long envisioned ways of creating artificial sight through enhancing the optical centers of the brain by use of cables. Scientists of a small laboratory in upstate New York tried their hand at this potentially dangerous research but were eager to risk it for the benefit of the visually impaired. A subject known at this time only by the name of "Alpha" volunteered for this research, hoping that

he could once again see his kids and live a normal life. Having signed his name off to the will of revolutionary scientists and courageous surgeons, Alpha was put under and when he woke, realized a small new feature on his head. Two holes on either side trailing a mass of tiny wires looked as if they were going into his brain. He was also given a pair of projected sunglasses. Over the course of the next couple of months, Alpha and a band of tireless scientists went through rounds of testing in the ultimate

goal of mapping out Alpha's visual isopters. Through the injection of calculated electrical signals, they hoped to evoke a visual response. These scientists felt that if they could just map these visual isopters they could begin to render them in a fashion that would create visual image correspondences. In other words, while his glasses viewed the images around him through a powerful micro camera that transmitted electrical signals into his brain, these electrical signals would give pictures that he could "see." This

accomplishment makes a huge achievement in fields of vision restoration despite the present slow conditions of these pictures, which take a long time to assemble and create in the brain. Over time scientists are creating stronger and faster technology that will be able to give quicker images in colored form. Some researchers project this could mean that the blind may have a better advantage in sight than we, with possibilities of zoom vision, infrared, and night vision.

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Common Phobia of Teachers: The French

By Jeffrey Zager - Staff writer

For several years now, MBA has been harboring a group of anti-French teachers. These three distinguished teachers, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Mosley, and Commander Carr, all share similar anti-French attitudes. One question remains: Is MBA aware of their feelings? To find out, I went straight to Mr. Gioia. However, it was a Friday and he was in a meeting. Too lazy to try again later, I simply asked the first student I saw. Shockingly, he was aware that Mr. Jenkins and Commander Carr shared anti-French feelings. He was not, however, aware that Mr. Mosley too shared these views. How did Mr. Mosley slip in under the radar? Determined to get to the bottom of all of this, I sat down with each of these men.

Commander Carr was unavailable for interview, but "his people" sent "my people" this statement: "I have no genuine feelings toward the French... France is a third world country and no American should waste its money on it or her valuable time worrying about how the French 'feel' about us or about how we 'feel' about the French." I'd say that pretty much speaks for itself. With Commander Carr's views clearly stated, I sat down with the remaining two

subjects. These are their stories.
Q: For the record, what is your opinion of the French?

Jenkins: I don't think you can put my true feelings in the paper. The people are fine, but the government frustrates me. It probably has a something to do with the fact that we have different political views.
Mosley: Their military has had no wins on their home turf since the 1890's. We always end up rescuing them.
Q: Were you beaten by a French person as a child?

Jenkins: No, no French person could beat me.
Mosley: No.
Q: When did you develop this hatred for the French?

Jenkins: I was in college. The French wouldn't let us use their air space after the Pan Am flight blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Mosley: When I visited France, the people were very arrogant to me because I could not speak the language well. The French have a sense of "cultural



Mr. Mosley refuses to teach his students *The Little Prince* because it was written by a French author.

alities".

Q: Would you beat a French child?

Jenkins: I don't beat children. French adults are fair game, though.

Mosley: As long as they didn't speak to me, no.

Q: Are you a member of any secret "anti-French" society?

Jenkins: No. I'm not a coward. There is no need to hide my feelings.

Mosley: No.
Q: Are you in super-management?

Jenkins: I don't want to manage my anger.
Mosley: No. I'm a calm person, except with the French.

Q: If you could say one thing to the French, what would it be?

Jenkins: Come to the realization that you have made no positive contributions to international relations since Napoleon, and Napoleon only united Europe in a hatred of France.

Mosley: Quit smoking, drinking, and talking!

Q: Do you have anything against French teachers?

Jenkins: No. Mrs. O'Connell is a wonderful person.

Mosley: No, as long as they are American.

Q: Do you consider the French to be "evil"?

Jenkins: No, they are too incompetent to achieve "evilness".

Mosley: No, not evil, just blindly dangerous.

Mr. Mosley also added that he loves French architecture, food, and one French girl. That being said, I felt that I had a former grasp of this so called "French hatred" and set out to inform you, the reader. Does MBA harbor "anti-Frenchness"? Judge for yourself.

MBA Welcomes New Faces on Campus; Blake Sloan Still the Man

By Josh Mayhew - Entertainment Editor

Not a year slips by when the campus doesn't feature an array of new faces. This school year proves to be no different with the new staff present - most of whom we have probably all seen and perhaps had the chance to speak with.

Martha Patrick may be gone, but her seat is still nice and roomy, courtesy of Sherie Guye. Sherie, having already worked as a legal administrative assistant for several years, comes to MBA to take over the tedious responsibilities needed to keep the main office from complete insanity. "I continue to be impressed by MBA," says Ms. Guye sincerely. "All the boys have been truly gentlemen to me and I am so impressed with their many diversities and talents." Ms. Guye, who proudly sported her cane during spirit week, loves the school spirit put forth by many at MBA but encourages it to be even stronger. We welcome Ms. Guye to the office staff and hope that by now that old seat of Martha Patrick's is starting to feel like her own.

It seems like Blake Sloan indeed has some full circle. For those MBA seniors and seasoned veterans that can remember five years ago, Blake was but a student here like

the rest of us. He's one of the few staff members that understands many of the triumphs and tribulations involved in

"the biggest change I have noticed is in Faculty and Staff. Lots of new faces, which is a good thing." As with so many people,



Pascha Sweett, Sherie Guye, and Blake Sloan

attending MBA. After attending both West Point and Auburn, Blake now is actively involved in the football program and Alumni & Development Office. After being asked what the biggest change was after his five year sabbatical, Blake promptly agrees that

the traditions of MBA have always been important to Blake. He hopes to see just as much spirit, enthusiasm, and camaraderie now as he did when he was a student here, not too long ago.

"Real short and sweet!" Pascha

Sweett replied sweetly in answering my question about things that she likes about MBA. With all the headaches that come with running the MBA admissions office, it is no surprise that Ms. Hurdley finally has some help to alleviate her stress. Pascha Sweett, having taught in public schools for five years, joins the staff as Administrative Assistant of Admissions. Upon arriving at MBA, Pascha realized the dedication of both the students and teachers, and strongly believes that "being happy in your environment is critical to the type of results you will receive."

Helping to make our campus look even more beautiful is Yorgan Pettit. Yorgan has recently joined our maintenance staff from Cuba, and helps Mr. Mario and Mr. Norton with all the work that goes into running the school. Yorgan has an extensive background in music, and teaches music at a Hispanic church in Nashville. Although not saying much, Yorgan always sports a friendly smile, and we welcome him to MBA this year.

One Wild Month

By Robert Foster - Service Club Co-President

For me, the last month of service has been inspiring and uplifting, not just because of the overwhelming numbers of volunteers, donations, and activities, but because of the true spirit of love and compassion that surrounds each and every project. The Service Club's fabulous start can be attributed to both the power of not only upper class commitment but also the revival of underclass interest within the community. The collision of the two groups came on the first Saturday of September. The first of the monthly soup kitchens was a pure invasion of the Holy Name Catholic Church. Over seventy-three students and faculty attended the feast, at least for a few minutes. Swamped, the kitchen was over-named, overpowered, and overcrowded, leading to the removal of students for the first time ever from a volunteer project. This rather glorious event was indeed a rather exciting moment for me. Leading the "booting," I was unfazed to learn that most of the students would not leave right away. They preferred to spend their Saturday mornings serving the less fortunate instead of sleeping or goofing off. Even presented with the opportunity to leave, the dedicated bunch was unafraid with nothing short of staying in the kitchen. It took a lot of time and effort, but finally 73+ students were reduced to around thirty-five and the project was an alarming success. Thanks to Commander

Carr for his leadership and help.

Likewise, Titans parking has had a boom of success. Project leader Brian Christie reports that the number of season passes has been tripled this year, demonstrating his powerful business and economic skills. Unable to contain himself, Brian exclaimed the other day, "Titans parking is so god-damn beautiful." And yes, the smell of charcoal rising into the Sunday afternoon sky with a small breeze, while you hang out with Dr. Mario, is indeed a beautiful thing. Titans parking is a great way to help the service club raise funds, and also provides a relaxing way to have fun.

For more parking fun, there is always Vanderbilt parking. Led by Jack Bryant, the lot is always full. Dr. Clark provides the faculty leadership and initiative for the project. Of utmost importance to the leadership is the grillin' out. A grill is always associated with fun and at Vanderbilt parking there is always plenty of it. So to have a good time, as many have, and to help the Service Club Vanderbilt parking is great fun.

The Service Club is off to a fast start with huge crowds and lots of fun. The most important thing though is for YOU yourself to get involved. Don't let everybody else have all the fun. Come on out and find out what service has been about the past month. Hey, you might even be Volunteer of the Month.

Volunteer of the Month Bryant Handtfelt



Handtfelt in his Big Red Army attire

Nickname: Taft

Sports: Football, Soccer

Favorite Service Club Project: Soup Kitchen

It's Gonna Be Nuts

By Robert Foster - Service Club President

After one month of school, the Service Club is ready to expand into new projects and new roles. With organization complete, it is now time to begin to rally for the rest of the year. In the face of this challenge, four projects have been developed: Preston Taylor Homes, Affordable Housing, Friends of Bonham Park, and St. Vincent DePaul Tutoring. Each project is unique in its own way and manner.

Preston Taylor Homes is set to become the major project of the Service Club. Similar to The Boys and Girls Clubs, the program allows students to interact with and teach underprivileged kids. The program allows students to take a vital role in the lives of young, impressionable kids and bond with them in ways that could change their lives. Cassius Kistner has assumed leadership for the project and looks to challenge the student body to participate in a historic and landmark new project.

A second new project, Affordable Housing, allows students the chance to return to a project similar to Habitat for Humanity. The project centers on renovating, cleaning up, and building additions to houses. Taking charge of the

project is long-time service veteran Will Springfield. The first project will be sometime in the coming month as MBA works to better the community.

For all the graduates of Mr. Chenery's biology classes, who sometimes have that urge to go kill some exotic plants, the game is back. Relying on the skills of the man, the myth, and the legend—Mr. Chenery—will be junior standout Matt Ervin. Ervin takes his first major leadership role after a long, successful career within the club. A third-semester legacy of the Service Club, great things can be expected of Ervin as every second Saturday of the month, he and others will help battle weeds and whack weeds.

This month will also feature the continuing projects of Titans Parking, Vanderbilt Parking, Soup Kitchen, and St. Vincent DePaul tutoring. For Soup Kitchen there will now be a sign-up sheet posted on the Ball Fire Door, the first 30 to sign-up are in.

There are countless opportunities for service inside and outside the community. If you have ideas or questions, please email me on the school email account. It is time for a great month of service.



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We Remember...



Vann Webb 1981-2002 Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete Class of 2000

A Tribute to Vann Webb

By Mark McDonald - MBA - Class of 2000

It is ironic that I am writing this tribute to Vann today. Because you see, Vann was my best friend, and he was the one who was always so good at putting the right words on paper; I wish I could do him justice now by doing the same. I felt an overwhelming sense of loss, and I still do, like many others. Vann was just one of those incredible guys who touched so many different people's lives, and I am so proud and thankful that I got to know him as well as I did. Vann had this amazing ability to make people smile wherever he went. I can

remember the daily latches at MBA where the laughter around the table after one of his jokes was uniquely contagious. Because of this, the friendships that he was able to create were tremendous. He has a countless number of friends at MBA and at Vanderbilt. Even when he came to visit me at school in Virginia for just two days last year, no one could stop talking about what a great person he was. Vann had everything going for him: he was smart, funny, good looking, and athletic, to name a few characteristics. But he never put himself on a pedestal above anyone else. He always managed to be so

genuine and humble.

Even though I consider Vann to be my closest friend, I really learned the most about him in these past ten months. Vann's courage, strength, and faith during this time were unlike any I have ever seen. Throughout his extreme battle with cancer, Vann never felt sorry for himself. He always maintained a positive outlook and continued to make others smile. Even when it took all of his energy to say one word, it was always something that would make everyone in the room laugh. Vann never lost hope that he would beat his illness and get back to his

life the way it was before. Everytime I came to visit him, he always had a plan for what we were going to do together once he got better. Even when his sickness was at its worst, and it would have been so easy to give up, Vann kept fighting, and stayed longer than any doctor had predicted.

There is no limit to what can be said in memory of Vann. He is the best friend that I or anyone else could ever have. He showed more in twenty-one years than anyone else could in an entire lifetime.

Vann, you are my inspiration, and will always be my lead-off man.

Vann... We will miss you and we will always remember you... Hail and Farewell.

Mollia non rigidus caespes tegat ossa nec illi, terra, gravis fueris: non fuit ille tibi.*

- Martial 5:34

*May the turf cover your gentle body not harshly, and oh, earth, be not heavy on Vann: he was not heavy for you.